

line 9, before "drying" insert --(c)--; and

line 10, before "recovering" insert --(d)--.

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add claim 12 as follows:

--12. A nickel hyperaccumulating plant of the *Alyssum* genus having a concentration of nickel in its above-ground tissues of at least 2.5% based on the gross dry weight of the above-ground tissues, wherein the plant is produced by a method including at least the following step:

growing the plant in a soil maintained under soil conditions such that the concentration of calcium in the soil is from about 0.128 mM to about 5 mM and the pH is below about 7.0 until such time that the concentration of nickel in the above-ground tissues is at least 2.5% based on the gross dry weight of the above-ground tissues.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending. In this Response, applicants amend claim 1, cancel claim 11 and add new claim 12. Claims 1-10 and 12, as amended are presented for reconsideration.